

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 PC-10 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01

CIEP-03 DRC-01 /142 W

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R 291245Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7902

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, AR (JOSE B. GELBARD)

SUBJECT: GELBARD AND LOPEZ REGA RAPPROCHEMENT?

1. INTERESTING DEVELOPMENT IN ONGOING POWER STRUGGLE IS SEEN IN THIS WEEK'S ISSUE OF LAS BASES (DATED AUG 27) WHICH FEATURES ECON MIN GELBARD ON COVER AND LONG INTERVIEW WITH HIM INSIDE. GIVEN THAT LAS BASES HAS ALWAYS BEEN CONSIDERED TO BE CONTROLLED BY LOPEZ REGA, GELBARD'S PRINCIPAL RIVAL, THIS ATTENTION TO ECON MINISTER IS PUZZLING INDEED TO MOST OBSERVERS.

2. ONE THEORY PUT FORWARD IS THAT THE TWO HAVE DECIDED IT IS IN THEIR MUTUAL INTERESTS TO PAPER OVER DIFFERENCES AND LAS BASES COVER STORY IS MEANS OF SIGNALLING IT. SOME SUBSTANCE IS LENT TO THIS BY POINTED QUESTIONS IN INTERVIEW CONCERNING GELBARD'S RELATIONS WITH LOPEZ REGA WHICH FORMER ANSWERED, IN EFFECT, BY SAYING THERE NO PROBLEMS BETWEEN THEM; ON CONTRARY, THAT OPEZ REGA A FINE FELLOW.

3. A SECOND EXPLANATION, WHICH DOES NOT NECESSARILY CONTRADICT FIRST, IS THAT APPOINTMENT OF ROCAMORA AS INTERIOR MINISTER IS MEANT TO PLACE EMPHASIS ON MODERATE APPROACH AND THAT BOTH GELBARD AND LOPEZ REGA ARE BEING PRESSURED BY PRESIDENT PERON TO BURY

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THEIR DIFFERENCES, AT LEAST IN PUBLIC, AND TO PRESENT UNITED FRONT.

4. AT THIS POINT EMBASSY HAS NOT HAD OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE
SUFFICIENT SOUNDINGS TO ASSESS MEANING OF LAS BASES COVER STORY.
IT CLEARLY SPELLS SOME KIND OF SHIFT, HOWEVER, WHICH SHOULD
BECOME MORE READILY APPARENT SHORTLY.
MONTLLOR

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